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National
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Center

Top Secret RUFF

31 JULY 1979

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IMAGERY INFORMATION REPORT

SS-20 FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE AT NOVOSIBIRSK RTP, USSR (TSR)

(TSR) An SS-20 field training exercise was observed at Novosibirsk ICBM Rail-to-Road Transfer Point (RTP), USSR, on [REDACTED] (Figure 1). The exercise consisted of a command and control unit and one possible launch unit. All of the equipment was canvas covered. The possible launch unit was parked in the trees, making a positive identification impossible. This is the first time that SS-20 equipment has been identified parked in the trees at Novosibirsk.

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(TSR) The command and control unit (Figure 2) was parked in the same clearing that it occupied during the probable regimental-level field training exercise observed on [REDACTED]. The clearing is approximately 1 nautical mile (nm) north of the RTP. The unit consisted of eleven canvas-covered vehicles, two of which were probable [REDACTED] van trucks; three MAZ-543 missile support vehicles (MSVs); one BTR-60; one electronics-associated URAL-375 truck; one TWIN EAR; and three unidentified vehicles. Two of the MAZ-543 MSVs had whip antennas. A free-standing antenna was also present.

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(TSR) The possible launch unit (Figure 3) was parked in the trees in an area 1.5 nm northeast of the RTP. This is the greatest distance between a launch unit and its command and control unit that has been observed to date. The two units are about 2 nm apart. Because of the trees and the obliquity of the imagery, only one of the vehicles in the possible launch unit could be identified as a possible SS-16/-20 transporter-erector-launcher (TEL)/resupply vehicle.

(TSR) This is the second time that SS-20 vehicles have been observed parked off the road among the trees during a field training exercise. On [REDACTED] SS-20 vehicles were seen parked among the trees in an area adjacent to Drovyanaya Revetment Area 1 (BE [REDACTED]).

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED].

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WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved

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